

## INCENDIARISM HYNTED IN BIG POWDER BLAST

Canadian Car and Foundry Co.  
Says That Careful Examination  
Points to Firebug.

### MISS MANY FROM HASKELL

Enormous Damage Done by  
Second Big Explosion in Two  
Days—Search for Dead.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—With the town of Haskell laid in ruins today from the second giant Jersey munitions plant explosion within forty-eight hours, Passaic County Prosecutor Michael Dunn prepared to lead New Jersey officials in a thorough investigation to determine whether there was an organized plot behind the two disasters.

With an explosion that shook four States and lit the midnight sky with a glare that was visible as far away as Albany, 400,000 pounds of smokeless powder at the du Pont munitions plant blew up, terrorized the country, and started a fire that blazed fiercely until early this morning.

### Two Are Missing.

Two missing and several injured was the only available report from the million-dollar explosion at Haskell early today.

This explosion came on the heels of the \$12,000,000 blow-up of the Russian shell plant of the Canadian Car and Foundry Company at Kingsland, N. J., Thursday, when hundreds of men, women and children fled into the night to escape the bombardment of exploding shrapnel cases.

### Company Suggests Incendiarism.

In a statement issued at the offices of the Canadian Car and Foundry Company, 120 Broadway, where the first explosion occurred, it was said: "An examination into the circumstances attending the origin of the fire in building No. 30 has created the impression that it is possible, if not probable, that the fire was of incendiary origin."

These two explosions are as yet unexplained as the less recent blow-up of hundreds of thousands of shells in the Black Tom disaster at Communipaw, N. J., in which four persons were killed, 120 injured and \$200,000,000 damage done.

### Reports of Loss of Life.

Reports of a heavy loss of life as a result of the explosion at Haskell were circulated today in New Jersey towns.

A sergeant of the Pompton Lakes police declared twenty-seven were killed. He announced his estimate.

### SEE O. K. FOR TEACHER BILL

Senate District Committee Expected to Report Favorably.

The Senate District Committee is expected to make a favorable report on the Pomeroy bill for the retirement of school teachers of the District, following the hearing yesterday.

The subcommittee that conducted the hearing seemed favorably impressed with the purposes of the bill and it is expected to make a favorable report to the main committee. Probabilities are the main committee will largely be guided by the subcommittee of which Senator Hollis is the head.

The District Committee will not meet until next Friday. That is the earliest time it can get the report of the subcommittee and it may not be ready by that date.

### TO JOIN U. S. AMBULANCE

Geo. C. Caner Quite ardent for War Service.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12.—George Colket Caner, of 1707 Walnut street, member of a socially prominent family of this city and captain of the Harvard tennis team, stated yesterday that he is to leave college next month and after a few days spent at his home will leave for France, where he is to drive a ambulance for the American ambulance field service.

Caner completes all courses necessary for his degree at the coming mid-year examinations. Therefore he resigned the captaincy of the Harvard tennis team yesterday afternoon.

Caner, with twenty-five other Harvard students will leave New York on February 17 bound for France.

Caner is one of the best tennis players in the country. Last fall he won the intercollegiate title in singles, and with Richard Harte, also this city, carried off the doubles championship title.

### PLANS COSTLY APARTMENT

\$500,000 Building in Prospect for Atlantic City.

ATLANTIC CITY, Jan. 13.—The execution of a mortgage loan of \$500,000 by Simon W. Strauss, a broker, of New York, to John Stafford, a builder, of Philadelphia, through a title company here today was believed to confirm reports that Stafford would erect one of the largest apartment houses in the Eastern States with a frontage on the Boardwalk between Brighton avenue and Stenton place, Chelsea.

The site, 125 by 250 feet, was reclaimed from the sea by jetties, and is valued at \$200,000. The building with its equipment and furnishings, it is said, will cost about \$500,000.

## HOUSE EMPOWERS COMMITTEE TO FORCE LAWSON TO ANSWER

Investigators Clothed With Inquisitorial Powers In Preliminary Inquiry On Charges of "Peace Leak."

### House Resolution.

The strong arm of the House of Representatives reached out today from Thomas W. Lawson, the Boston financier, who will be met on Monday with a demand that he answer all questions asked by the Rules Committee when it resumes its investigation into the alleged "leak" scandal.

The House by unanimous vote clothed the Rules Committee with broad inquisitorial powers, and, designating Thomas W. Lawson by name, stipulated that the investigating committee specifically direct Lawson to answer questions. A general reopening of the "leak" inquiry is also authorized.

This action was taken when the Rules Committee reported two resolutions for a continuation of the inquiry on the Wood resolutions, the House having rejected yesterday a recommendation of the committee to stop the investigation.

### House Resolution.

The resolution adopted by the House reads:

Resolved, That in the performance of the duties imposed upon it by reference to it of House resolution 420, the Committee on Rules

shall have the power to send for persons and papers and to administer oaths, and to employ such stenographic and clerical assistance as may be necessary. The expenses incurred hereunder shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House of Representatives on vouchers ordered by the committee signed by the chairman thereof.

Resolved, That in the consideration of House resolutions numbered 420 and 423, committed to the Committee on Rules, said committee be and it is hereby authorized and empowered to require witnesses to answer all questions propounded by said committee or any member thereof, touching the subject-matter of said resolutions, and to require any witness called before it to testify fully as to any information in his possession, whether in the nature of hearsay testimony or otherwise, relevant to the matters set forth in said resolutions, and said committee is specifically directed to require one Thomas W. Lawson to name any member of Congress or

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### MURDER SUSPECT

MUSTA STAND TRIAL

Weldon H. Wells to Be Brought to Columbus, Charged With Killing Mira Simon.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 13.—Weldon H. Wells, twenty-five, of Kansas City, arrested at Huntington, Ind., early today in connection with the murder of Mira Simon at a fashionable hotel here Thursday night, will be brought back to Columbus by Detective Sergeant Peter Albanese.

An affidavit charging Wells with first degree murder was filed today by Albanese.

Police believe the woman was killed last Thursday night. Had a maid employed at the hotel showed a little more curiosity the police say they would have been on the case earlier. The maid is said to have found the door unlocked at 7 a. m. yesterday and entered, but did not notice that the woman was dead.

### Village Choir Girl.

A little village choir girl, who was attracted by the big city's bright path to her death, is the life story of Mira Simon.

"She was a good girl when she first came here," said Mrs. D. M. Hubbard today, with whom the girl had lived for three years.

"She got a job as a hotel telephone operator and at first she would come home from work early evenings.

### Wanted To Go Home.

"Often she would cry and tell me she wished she were back home with her parents in Phillips, W. Va., and the friends with whom she sang in the church choir.

"She used to pray and read the Bible occasionally, but a change came. She fell into bad company. Things went from bad to worse and finally she left me."

The girl's body was prepared for shipment to Grafton, W. Va., today, on the order of her brother, Charles H. Simon, who lives there.

### SIX IN DANGER FROM SMOKE

Nearly Overcome When Fumes Fill Burning Building.

Six persons were nearly overcome by smoke which filled the second floor of 507 Eleventh street northwest when fire broke out in the paperhanging establishment of Joseph Egdal, on the ground floor, this morning.

Michael Caetto, his wife, and their five-month-old baby, were taken from one apartment, and Mrs. Marie Pelton, her four-year-old son, Charles, and her sister, Miss Alice Newman, from the other.

A colored man passing along Eleventh street saw the flames in the store and hammers on the side door until he aroused the two families on the upper floor.

Firemen from Engine Company No. 2, the first to reach the scene, brought the six occupants down the smoke-filled stairway. None of them were overcome.

The fire was confined to the store, where it did about \$500 damage.

### 72 YEARS ABED; LOVE SICK

Really Ill Only Two Days, She Dies at 94.

LONDON, Jan. 13.—A woman has died at Scarborough this week, aged ninety-four, who has spent the last seventy-two years of her life in bed. In all that time she had been ill only for the two days that preceded her death. Her appetite had been good and she possessed a complexion which a young girl might envy.

The complaint from which she suffered was disappointed love. When she was twenty-one she contracted an engagement of which her father did not approve. She thereupon went to bed and left it on only one occasion, to travel from Cambridge to Scarborough.

## FRESH EFFORT TOWARD PEACE IS UNDER WAY

President Begins Groundwork for Further Mediation, Is Report.

### MAY USE SECRET CHANNELS

Submarine Issue Again Looms as Incentive to Move by United States.

### First Cue From Chancellor.

It is deemed likely by some that the President will give his first cue—if he does not already possess confidential advice from Ambassador Gerard—by Von Bethmann Hollweg in an address before the Reichstag on the entente terms.

What the President is looking for is some common ground on which the entente demands and German concessions square sufficiently to give him a basis for effectual work.

In the meantime, the submarine bogey again looms as a prod to American efforts for peace. Reports from abroad, confirmed to a large extent in German circles here, indicate that if there is no peace now Germany will push her warfare on a larger and more relentless scale.

Ambassador von Bernstorff has given assurance that there will be no further violations of the "principles" which Germany has agreed to—cruiser warfare.

### Armed Merchantmen Issue.

But the question of armed merchantmen is still on the list of unsettled questions between the United States and the central powers, and Germany only recently reiterated her stand that an armed merchantman is a warship.

The danger lies in Germany's sinking without warning such a vessel, despite the American contention that a merchantman may arm for defense without changing her peaceful status.

German officials here have said there probably will continue to be technical questions between the two governments in the matter of armed merchantmen until the issue is decided.

President Wilson, however, has plainly indicated that he will not be as patient as heretofore when belligerents quibble on technicalities.

### DANES ARE OPTIMISTIC

Diplomats in Copenhagen Think Peace is Nearer.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 13.—In spite of the character of belligerents' notes, there is belief in Danish diplomatic circles that peace is nearer.

The popular sentiment in Denmark, too, appears to have changed since September. Then the Danes were willing to fight at the drop of a hat. They are still strongly anti-German, but speculation as to Denmark joining forces with the entente has now ceased.

Minister Maurice Francis Egan, dean of the diplomatic colony here, and for years a confidant of opposing groups in Denmark, said on February 13, for Washington on a two-month vacation. As a result of his observations he may be able to impart to President Wilson some valuable information as a further means for promoting peace discussions, although definite news seems impossible until the spring offensive.

### SEE LITTLE PEACE HOPE

German Editors Believe Allies Have Blocked Chance.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 13.—German editorial comment today was practically unanimous in the belief that the allies' note has blocked all chance for peace at present.

"The entente's note establishes that this is a war of conquest on their part—it destroys our last desire for peace," declared an editorial in the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger.

"Now, as heretofore, our enemies will strive for the destruction of Germany as a great power," asserted the Tageszeitung.

The Tageblatt characterized the demands made by "a madly frantic entente" as having "blocked every path leading to peace."

"War by notes is thus exhausted for the present," declared the Tagliche Rundschau.

### THINK PEACE BLOCKED.

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 13.—Scandinavian newspaper comment generally agreed today that the allies' reply to President Wilson blocks peace for the present.

The newspaper Tidningen, however, sees some hope of compromise.

The Dagens Nyheter declares it is "Germany's duty now to publish her terms."

## KAISER DECLARES THE ALLIES HAVE CLOSED DOOR TO PEACE

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 13.—The allies' purpose to crush Germany and enslave Europe is now made clear; but as they have failed in thirty months of bloody war and "unscrupulous economic" fighting to accomplish subjugation of the central powers, so will their future efforts fail.

Kaiser Wilhelm thus summed up his belief of the entente powers' position in a "proclamation to the German people," issued today, which was as follows:

### Our enemies have dropped the mask.

After refusing with scorn and hypocritical words of love for peace and humanity, they now, in replying to the United States, have gone beyond that and admitted their last lust of conquest, the baseness of which is enhanced by calumnious assertions.

Their aim is the crushing of Germany; dismemberment of the central powers, and enslavement of the freedom of Europe and the seas under the same yoke that Greece, with gnashing teeth, is now enduring.

But what in thirty months of bloodiest fighting and unscrupulous economic war they could not achieve, they will also fail to accomplish in the future.

Our glorious victories and the iron strength of will with which our fighters at the front and at home have borne all hardships and distress is a guarantee for the future that our beloved Fatherland has nothing to fear.

Burning indignation and holy wrath will redouble the strength of every German, man or woman, whether devoted to fighting, to work, or to suffering. We are ready for all sacrifices. The God who planted this glorious spirit of freedom in our brave peoples' hearts will also give us and our noble allies, tested in battle, full victory over all the enemy's lust for power and rage for destruction.

### "SUFF" SENTINELS

FEED SQUIRRELS

White House Watchers Also Escape Ennui by Running on Hot Bricks.

Between feeding peanuts to the White House squirrels and "hot-footing" on the oven-warmed bricks piled on boards, the twelve "suff" sentinels at the Executive Mansion last afternoon were obliged to break the ennui of the occasion.

The peanut idea was that of Miss Mildred Gilbert, the California suffragist, who not only wanted to do a good turn to the little animals scampering about the White House grounds, but who wanted something to distract her attention from the cold winds and the 32-degree temperature of the day.

### Adopted By Others.

The idea soon was adopted by other of the sentinels, and piled up at the base of the picket fence surrounding the grounds are enough bags of goobers to feed all the squirrels in the Zoo for the next six months. As soon as it was heard that the "suffs" wanted food for the squirrels, it seemed that every passer-by was willing to provide it in the shape of Virginia and Carolina peanuts.

The demands on the doughnut and hot coffee division of the Congressional Union across the street in Lafayette square, were not so great today, and the suffragist chafing dish chauffeurs were given a breathing spell because of the slight rise in the temperature.

A meeting of the President and the sentinels was "caught" by the motion picture camera men for the first time today.

White House guards, acting on orders given by someone whose name was not given, had succeeded in keeping the camera men away from the gates until after the President had passed through.

Today, however, the vigilance was more lax, and many feet of the White House car passing through the ranks of the pickets, of the Presidential smile, and the grins of the sentinels, were filmed.

### INCREASE IN LONG HOURS

More Railroad Employees Exceed Consecutive Time Limit.

An increase of more than 25 per cent in the number of instances in which employees in railway train service worked longer than sixteen consecutive hours—the limit provided by Federal law—during the last fiscal year over the preceding year, was reported by the Interstate Commerce Commission today.

During the year 73,731 railway employees were on duty longer than sixteen consecutive hours, against 59,594 last year, and 131,000 in 1914. The principal causes of the excess, duty were overtime and miscellaneous car defects.

Instances of excess duty for railroad telegraphers, in excess of nine consecutive hours totaled 15,967, against 11,510 last year.

### COLD WEATHER COMING

Weather Bureau Predicts Low Temperatures Next Week.

If you're shivering now, you'll shiver more next week, according to the Weather Bureau.

A brief respite from the present cold wave that is gripping the country from coast to coast is promised for the middle of next week. After that, however, it will be colder than ever—or at least that's what the Weather Bureau said today.

### HUNT CHILD LOST IN SNOW.

BEACH, N. D., Jan. 13.—Almost every man in Beach spent last night aiding in a search of the blizzard-swept prairies for seven-year-old Philomene Kusil, who is lost in the snow.

When the child left the bus which had brought her to her home from school the forty-mile-an-hour gale blew the lid from her dinner pail. She ran after it and in a moment she was lost in the blinding, swirling snow.

### GERARD ADMITS SPEECH

Press Version of Banquet Address Correct, Envoy Wires.

The wireless report that Ambassador Gerard had said at a recent banquet that relations between Germany and America were never better since the war started than at present, is substantially correct, according to word from Gerard to the State Department today.

The State Department declined to reveal exactly what Gerard had said further than to admit that "the press had quoted him substantially correctly."

A statement on the whole situation will probably be forthcoming later, though not today.

The department said its inquiry of Gerard was based upon a customary procedure in cases of where criticism had been or might be made over a diplomat's remarks.

### ADMITS KILLING FATHER

Third Trial Brings Out Confession of Crime.

CAMILLA, Ga., Jan. 13.—Cuthbert Adams, who several years ago shot and killed his father, Judge J. J. Adams, because the latter reproved him for shooting a dog, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter today at his third trial.

He was sentenced to serve five years in the penitentiary. The first trial resulted in a mistrial and on the second the boy was sent to the State insane asylum. Experts there recently pronounced him sane.

### PORTRAIT PURCHASED.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—Michael Friedsam today bought the portrait of Senator Moses by Dyck, from the Kleinberger Galleries for his private collection. The picture is of the same period as the portraits of Snyder, the artist, and his wife, now in the collection of Henry C. Frick. It was bought by this country by King Joseph Bonaparte.

## CLERKS' RAISE TURNED DOWN IN COMMITTEE

Pay Increase Defeated by Democrats of Senate Subcommittee.

### BASED ON ECONOMY BILL

Blow to Thousands in Capital. Little Hope on Senate Floor.

### The Senate subcommittee in charge

of the legislative bill today turned down the movement for increased pay for Government clerks and employees.

By a party vote with the Democrats voting against an increase and the Republicans voting for it, the subcommittee acted.

Senators Overman, Brydson, and Robinson voted against allowing the employees higher pay. Senators Smoot and Oliver voted in favor of an increase.

Senator Smoot reserved the right to offer an amendment on the floor. He will present an amendment which provides either for the scale of increase allowed by the House or for some substantial addition to the pay of the lower paid employees.

### To Report Monday.

The subcommittee completed work on the bill about noon. It will make its report to the main committee Monday. All indications are that the Appropriations Committee will stand by the subcommittee.

The subcommittee not only refused to allow the 10 and 5 per cent increases made in the House, but it also refused a compromise under which something would be done for the most poorly paid clerks and employees.

With a big deficit staring the Administration in the face, the subcommittee slashed the bill right and left and allowed no increases of pay whatever save in the case of two employees in the Census Office.

### Blow to Thousands.

The action of the subcommittee will be a great blow to the thousands of Government clerks and employees in Washington and throughout the country. While a fight will be made on the floor of the Senate to get increases allowed, the Senate Democrats, with few exceptions, have bound themselves in caucus to stand by any action in the direction of economy which the Appropriations Committee takes.

This makes it improbable that the action in subcommittee today can be reversed, although strenuous efforts will be made by the officials of the Federal Employees' Union to must go get higher pay granted.

### Will Form Precedent.

Not only is the action of the subcommittee on the legislative bill important because of the large number of employees whose salaries are covered by that bill, but because it has been generally understood that unless increases were allowed on the legislative bill, the Senate Democrats would not allow other appropriation bills which provide for employees' salaries.

The District of Columbia bill is one of these appropriations measures. If nothing is done for the employees covered by the legislative bill it is improbable that the District of Columbia employees will be granted more pay. The same applies to the employees covered in the Indian bill and probably to the postoffice bill and others.

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